

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
June 15, 2011

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Mike Burow at 8:34 a.m. Committee members Walt Christensen, Greg Torres, Carlton Zentner and Scott Zimmerman were also present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Beth Klotz, LWCD; Dennis Vollmer, NRCS; John Molinaro, County Board Chairperson; Gary Petre, County Administrator and Jan Roou were also in attendance.

2. Roll call (establish a quorum):

A quorum was established.

3. Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

4. Review of the June agenda:

The June agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Review and approval of the May 18, 2011, meeting minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the May 18, 2011, meeting minutes as written, Zimmerman seconded. Motion carried, 5/0.

6. Citizens comments:

There were no citizen comments.

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report:

Dennis Vollmer discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached. Reed canary grass was discussed.

8. Report and Request County Farm Land Use – Walt Christensen:

A letter, from Anthony Peyer, had been sent to the committee regarding the land use on the county farm. See attached. Christensen distributed a summary that he had prepared from a subsequent letter sent to him from Peyer. See attached summary. Christensen will retype this letter and provide copies of it to the committee at the next meeting.

Christensen stated that Peyer urges the committee to keep in mind the original purpose of the farm, noting that the farm as a whole is greater than the sum of its parts. He feels the best approach to the future of the County Farm is to continue with the income producing agriculture and siting of county offices which are closely related to the original mission and then improve the woodland by employing good forestry practices. The sale of the wood could be another source of revenue. A perimeter walking trail would show users the contrast between an urban setting and a rural land use.

An update and review of the most recent correspondence regarding the County Farm land use will be put on July's agenda. Watkins will contact the Parks Department to determine possible assistance details regarding the woodlands located on the County Farm and report on this in July.

9. Discussion and possible action on proposed Highway Department location on the county farm:

Burow gave a brief recap of the joint June 2, 2011, Highway/LWCC/Infrastructure Committee meeting. All location suggestions, for the Highway Department, made at that meeting are being considered and update information will be presented at the June 30, 2011, joint Highway/LWCC/Infrastructure Committee meeting. The LWCC members are in favor of a more in-depth look at the location of the new Highway Department, and most members stated they are not in favor of the currently proposed site on the County Farm. A brief meeting will be held by the LWCD after the Highway/LWCC/Infrastructure Committee meeting on June 30, 2011. This meeting will have one agenda item, discussion and possible action on proposed Highway

Department location. This agenda item will also be placed on the July LWCC meeting agenda if necessary.

10. Notice of Non-Compliance with the Soil and Water Conservation Requirements – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

Ronald & Patricia Pelky and Alan B Cook request to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program.

Zentner moved and Torres seconded to approve Ronald & Patricia Pelky and Alan B Cook's Voluntary Notices of Non-participation which will allow them to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program database. Motion carried 5/0.

11. 2010-2011 tree seedling program report:

A 2010-2011 Tree Seedling Report was distributed to the committee. See attached. 8000 trees were sold. The varieties offered were: Eastern Arborvitae, Hazelnut, American Highbush Cranberry, Allegheny Serviceberry, Fraser Fir, Red Oak, White Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce and White Spruce. A profit of approximately \$2682.67 was realized from the sale, excluding labor. If labor is included the program probably breaks even.

12. Land & Water Conservation rental equipment report:

Watkins distributed a 2011 Equipment Rental Report to the committee. See attached. A total of \$131.87 in revenue was generated.

13. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) financial report:

Copies of the latest Statement of Revenue & Expenditures for LWCD were distributed. See attached. The department is on target with revenues and expenditures. Watkins stated that the 2012 staffing grant may be reduced by about 4% for a \$3700 - \$4700 reduction.

14. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence at this time.

15. Set next meeting and possible agenda items:

It was decided by the members that the next scheduled meetings of the Land & Water Conservation Committee will be held on Thursday, June 30, 2011, and Wednesday, July 20, 2011 at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report, update and review of the most recent correspondence regarding the County Farm land use, and discussion and possible action on proposed Highway Department location on the county farm.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Zentner and seconded by Torres at 10:31 a.m. Motion carried, 5/0.